

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically dismissing option information comprising:
  - displaying a workspace on a computer screen;
  - displaying at least one icon;
  - presenting a non-modal dialog box within the workspace when a predetermined icon is chosen;
  - providing a preference option that, when enabled by a user, operates to hide the non-modal dialog box when a cursor moves off a frame of the dialog box to maximize the amount of available workspace on the computer screen for displaying work; and
  - providing a hot-spot at least one means for restoring the non-modal dialog box when the cursor moves over the hot-spot, wherein the hot-spot is re-locatable by a user to any location on the workspace.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 1, wherein ~~a~~ the hot-spot includes at least one of the icon and a preference option box.

Claims 4-7 (Canceled)

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a means to activate and to deactivate the preference option.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a means for customizing the preference option.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the means for customizing is a preference option properties dialog that includes at least one customizable feature choice.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the customizable feature includes at least one of a choice between a large and a small preference option icon, an automatic positioning option for tool settings dialog boxes, a new tool delay time, and a hide dialog delay time.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer program residing on a computer-readable medium that provides a method for automatically dismissing option information, the program comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

display a workspace on a computer screen, the workspace having at least one toolbar including a plurality of icons that each represents a tool;

display a non-modal dialog box within the workspace when an icon is chosen;

hide the non-modal dialog box when a preferences option is enabled and a cursor is moved outside the boundaries of the non-modal dialog box to maximize the amount of available workspace on the computer screen for displaying work; and

restore the non-modal dialog box when the cursor moves over a predetermined hot-spot on the workspace a restore action occurs, wherein the hot-spot is re-locatable by a user to any location on the workspace.

13. (Original) The program of claim 12 further including instructions to permit a user to disable and enable the preference option.

Claim 14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The program of claim ~~14~~ 12 wherein the hot-spot includes at least one of a tool icon and a preference option icon.

Claims 16-19 (Canceled)

20. (Original) The program of claim 12, further comprising instructions enabling a user to customize the preference option.

21. (Original) The program of claim 20, wherein a preference option properties dialog box including at least one customizable feature is provided.

22. (Original) The program of claim 21, wherein the customizable features include at least one of a choice of a large or small preference option box, a choice of automatically positioning a tool settings dialog, a new tool delay time, and a hide dialog delay time.